

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SY-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00
NSCE-00 /050 W

-----141617Z 025226 /45

O R 141514Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 631
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2187
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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USUN PASS CATHY HULDRUM, ROOM 5600, 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

STATE FOR "A" BUREAU CONDAYN AND NEA/ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)
SUBJECT: ROCKEFELLER VISIT

1. EXPECTED WEATHER DAMASCUS: MOSTLY CLEAR 6/70 DAY: 55/65
NIGHT.

2. DRESS DAMASCUS: FOR MEETINGS, DARK BUSINESS SUIT. FOR
ANY EVENING EVENTS, LADIES LONG DRESS, OTHERWISE INFORMAL FOR
SHOPPING AND TOURING.

3. SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1977.

1155 A.M. ARRIVE DAMASCUS AIRPORT, SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES
RAMP. THE PARTY WILL BE MET BY AMBASSADOR MURPHY.

1200 MOTORCADE DEPARTS AIRPORT TO MEREDIEN HOTEL.
DRIVING TIME 30 MINUTS. ARRIVE AT
MEREDIEN HOTEL AT 12:30 P.M. OPTION 1: AMBASSADOR MURPHY HAS
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OFFERED TO GIVE PRIVATE LUNCHEON FOR GOVERNOR AND MRS.
ROCKEFELLER AND MELINDA. OPTION 2: PRIVATE LUNCHEON
ON OWN.
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC GOVERNMENT (SARG) ADVISES THAT
MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER WILL PROBABLY
BE HELD SOMETIME AFTERNOON SUNDAY, MARCH 27. NO OTHER
ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY PLANNED BY SARG OTHER THAN PRIVATE MEETINGS

WITH PRESIDENT ASAD AND FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM WHOM GOVERNOR MET IN U.S. IN AUGUST 1974. WHEN SARG INFORMS DETAILS AND TIMES OF MEETINGS WE WILL ADVISE IMMEDIATELY.

4. MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1977: NO MEETINGS OR CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT PLANNED THIS DATE. GOVERNOR AND MRS. ROCKEFELLER AND MELINDA WILL BE AT THEIR LEISURE AND FREE TO SHOP, VISIT LOCAL SIGHTS, ETC. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE GUIDE AND ASSISTANCE FOR SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING. OPTION 1: SIGHTSEEING: IF GOVERNOR AND MRS. ROCKEFELLER WISH TOUR OF PALMYRA IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO INFORM SARG IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AIRPORT CLEARANCE AT MILITARY AIRPORT NEAR PALMYRA. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SPEND APPROXIMATELY FIVE TO SIX HOURS IN TRANSIT AND TOURING CONSISTING OF FOLLOWING: 30 MINUTE MOTORCADE TO AIRPORT, 30 MINUTE FLIGHT TO AIRPORT NEAR PALMYRA, 30 MINUTE MOTORCASE TO RUINS, TWO HOURS AT RUNIS. SAME TIME FRAME RETURN. OPTION 1 WOULD MEAN THAT IF THE GOVERNOR AND MRS. ROCKEFELLER CARE TO SHOP AND VISIT HISTORIC SITES IN DAMASCUS ON MONDAY THAT DEPARTURE WOULD BE AROUND 8:00 A.M. MONDAY FOR PALMYRA IN ORDER RETURN TO DAMASCUS IN TIME TO SHOP, TOUR, ETC.

OPTION 2: SPEND ENTIRE DAY IN DAMASCUS SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING. EVENING FREE FOR DINNER AT PRIVATE RESTAURANT OR WITH AMBASSADOR (SEE BELOW)

5. TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1977:

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9:00 A.M. DEPART MEREDIEN HOTEL VIA MOTORCADE ENROUTE DAMASCUS AIRPORT, SYRIA ARAB AIRLINES RAMP.

10:00 A.M. DEPART DAMASCUS AIRPORT ENROUTE CIARO, EGYPT. (FLYING TIME ONE HOUR, 30 MINUTES).

11:30 A.M. ARRIVE CAIRO.

2:30 P.. DEPART BY MOTORCADE ENROUTE CAIRO AIRPORT.

3:30 P.M. DEPART CAIRO AIRPORT ENROUTE NICE, FRANCE. (FLYING TIME 3 HOURS, 45 MINUTES). (TIME CHANGE MINUS ONE HOUR).

6:15 P.. ARRIVE NICE, FRANCE, AIR AZUR RAMP. DEPART NICE AIRPORT BY MOTORCADE ENROUTE TO NEGRESKO HOTEL.

6:45 P.. ARRIVE NEGRESKO HOTEL FOR OVERNIGHT. OPTION FOR PRIVATE DINNER.

6. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1977

9:30 A.M. DEPART NEGRESO HOTEL BY MOTORCADE ENROUTE
NICE AIRPORT.

NICE AIRPORT.

11:00 A.M. DEPART NICE ENROUTE NEW YORK (FLYING TIME
TEN HOURS) (FUEL STOPS: SHANNON AND GANDER ONE HOUR, INCLUDES
BOTH STOPS) (TIME CHANGE MINUS 6 HOURS).

2:00 P.. ARRIVE NEW YORK.

7. AMBASSADOR RECOGNIZES THAT SYRIAN STOP IS NEAR END
OF TAXING SCHEDULE AND ALSO THAT GOVERNOR CONCERNED
EMPHASIZE PRIVATE NATURE OF VISIT. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL,
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HOWEVER, IN DEVELOPING EMBASSY'S CONTACTS WITH SYRIAN
LEADERSHIP OF AMBASSADOR AND MRS. MURPHY COULD GIVE SMALL
DINNER (20 PERSONS - CABINET RANK) OR BUFFER (50 PERSONS)
FOR ROCKEFELLERS ON ONE OF THE TWO NIGHTS OF THEIR STAY.
ADDITIONALLY, IF GOVERNOR AGREEABLE, AMBASSADOR AND MRS.
MURPHY WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE ROCKEFELLERS TO LUNCHEON
PRIVATELY WITH THEM AFTER ARRIVAL MARCH 27.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS RE SIGHSEEING: A: ST. PAUL'S
CHAPEL. SMALL, PICTURESQUE CHAPEL BUILT ON SITE
WHICH ST. PAUL ESCAPED FROM DAMASCUS BY BEING LOWERED FROM
WINDOW IN BASKET LOCATED ON GROUNDS OF GREEK CATHOLIC PATRIARCHATE.

B: OMAYYAD MOSQUE. DATES FROM ARAB CONQUEST OF SYRIA
IN 7TH CENTURY, FORMERLY CATHOLIC BASILICA. INTERESTING
MOSAICS, LUXURIOUS CARPETS, ALSO REPORTEDLY BURIAL PLACE OF
JOHN THE BAPTIST.

C: DAMASCUS MUSEUM. SERIES OF CAREFULLY SELECTED AND
MOUNTED EXAMPLES REPRESENTING ALL PERIODS OF SYRIAN HISTORY
FROM BABYLONIAN TO ISLAMIC ERAS.

D: MOSQUE OF SULAYMAN AND HANDICRAFT BAZAAR. LOCATED
ACROSS STREET FROM MUSEUM, MOSQUE IS FINE EXAMPLE OF OTTOMAN
ARCHITECTURE. ADJOINING MOSQUE IS HANDICRAFT
BAZAAR WHERE CRAFTSMEN OF MOST TYPES OF SYRIAN ARTWORK
CAN BE SEEN (GLASS BLOWER, JEWELER, WOODWORKER, WEAVER,
POTTER).

E: SOUK (BAZAAR) COVERS AREA SOMEWHAT LARGER THAN
ISFAHAN BAZAAR AND CONTAINS MANY OLD SHOPS WITH

ANTIQUES AND MODERN HANDICRAFT. BEST BUYS INCLUDE
GOLD JEWELRY, WORKED BRASS AND COPPER, SILK BROCADE,
AND MOSIAC WOODWORK. GOOD CARPETS AND OCCASIONAL PIECES
OF HELLENIC, ROMAN AND ISLMAIC POTTERY AND
GLASSWARE CAN ALSO BE FOUND.
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9. SECURITY. KEHOE REQUEST ADVISE DWYER SYRIAN SECURITY
WILL PROVIDE FULL COVERAGE FOR THIS VISIT. NO
HOSTILITIES DIRECTED TOWARD AMERICANS IN RECENT PAST. DUE
TO HOTEL OVERNIGHTS MIDNIGHT COVERAGE REQUIRED. THERE IS
NO ADVERSE INFORMATION. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS SATISFACTORY.

10. SYRIAN OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SECURITY
SERVICE MOST COOPERATIVE IN ASSURING SUCCESS OF YOUR VISIT
EVEN THOUGH TRADITIONALLY IN SYRIA PROGRAM DOES NOT BECOME
FINAL UNTIL ABOUT THE TIME OF ARRIVAL.
MURPHY

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